



# Department of Justice

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## **NCMEC CYBERTIP LEADS TO ARREST OF HOWARD COUNTY JUVENILE CORRECTIONS OFFICER FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Michael Shane Bates, 47, Kokomo, Ind., was arrested and charged today with one count of allegedly receiving child pornography. The charge is the result of a joint investigation by the Kokomo Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the Carmel Police Department, the Noblesville Police Department and the Fishers Police Department. These law enforcement agencies are activity involved in the operations involving the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Hamilton County Metro Child Exploitation Task Force. The investigation began as a result of a complaint by a private citizen to the Cybertip Line of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

The complaint alleges that between September 2008 and September 21, 2010, Bates used a computer to receive and distribute multiple images of child pornography through the Internet. Bates allegedly possessed numerous images and videos of child pornography on a thumb drive hidden in a chair at his home. The complaint does not allege that Bates produced any of the child pornography.

Bates was arrested without incident at his residence. For the last 15 years, Bates has been employed as a Juvenile Corrections Officer at the Robert J. Kinsey Youth Center in Howard County, Indiana.

An initial appearance was held this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kennard P. Foster in Indianapolis. Bates was ordered to reside in a community confinement facility in Indianapolis pending trial.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Steven D. DeBrotta and Gayle Helart, who are prosecuting the case for the government, one count of receiving child pornography may be

punished by a term of between five and 20 years in prison, a maximum possible fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release following any term of imprisonment for up to the life of the offender.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.projectsafecchildhood.gov>.

**The complaint is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.**

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